

Appendix __ Public Meeting Comments

Anchorage Meeting

Bella Hammond: I grew up in the Bristol Bay area and fished for many years. I'm very familiar with the area where the proposed mine goes. And I asked a number of people today if they'd ever been to that area and most of them said no. And I think if you -- those who are involved who haven't been to that area should take the time to see the beauty and this beautiful fishery that we have. Other renewable resources and -- and I think I understand that as more time goes on there is more concern about the Pebble Project. And becoming enlightened I think is crucial for people to understand what we might lose. And so I really hope people will learn more about the Pebble Project.

EPA Response: *The assessment characterized the Bristol Bay region and helped EPA understand potential impacts to the salmon resources, the people who depend on them and their way of life.*

Trefon Angasan: APC owns about ___, acres of land adjacent to the Pebble Project. We -- we really don't know what impact the studies are to have, the assessment or any action that EPA takes on what it's going to do to the Alaska Peninsula Corporation lands. We are asking for more time so that we can look at what the full impact is going to be so that we could then make meaningful comments to the study. At this time we find that we're unable to fully get the message out to our shareholders to have consultations with them because they're getting ready -- as we all know are getting ready for the upcoming season.

EPA Response: *The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate potential impacts of mining on salmon resources of the Bristol Bay region. Future land use is outside the scope of the assessment Appendix E provides a baseline evaluation of current economic activity dependent on a healthy ecosystem. EPA extended the comment deadline to provide additional time for input.*

Thomas Tilden: I'm a fisherman. I started fishing in ___. My grandmother always told me that we were very rich. I want to point out some weak points in regards to the EPA assessment. I believe that you were weak on history. I believe that you have got to take a look at the Native people that live out in that area. There's been to generations of people that have lived in that area, depended on that salmon and want to continue to do so. There has to be more emphasis in regards to how the people survive out there. That is not only economics but that is subsistence to the folks that live out there. The other part that you're weak on is in regards to the freshwater fish that is in the area. The people depend on it greatly. Pike, whitefish, suckers, that all come up into the freshwater area. And EPA needs to take a look at how that contributes to the people. Our people that have lived in this area for centuries want to continue to live there. We believe that we have a right. We believe that the subsistence lifestyle is very important. We believe that our culture is important. When you come out to Bristol Bay and you take a look at who we are, we are people of fish. Fish is in our art. Fish is in our music. Fish is in our dance. Fish is who we are. That is in your economy. So please come back out, study the people that live there, that are going to die there, that are going to be buried there that depend on this fish

EPA Response:

Anges Rychovsky: . I don't support large-scale open-pit mining within the largest salmon spawning grounds in the world. Also the only lake in Alaska that has freshwater seals. I'm glad to see that EPA has made attempt to do a watershed assessment. All efforts be recognize including the -- all efforts should be recognized including the Pebble baseline environmental studies. As a village leader it is our job to preserve and protect the traditional use routes and subsistence use areas for hunting, fishing and gathering because today we are the keepers of the land. I am concerned about our traditional lands eventually being closed due to wetland status. I've heard EPA's response assuring us that that will not occur; but with any governmental structure people change, policy change, treaties are broken; and I'm hesitant about taking anyone or any agency at full faith and credit in light of historical behavior patterns. It is my responsibility as a grandmother to fight for the preservation of our traditional rights for my grandchildren and my future great grandchildren.

EPA Response: *The assessment characterized the Bristol Bay region and helped EPA understand potential impacts to the salmon resources, the people who depend on them and their way of life. The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate potential impacts of mining on salmon resources of the Bristol Bay region. Future land*

use is outside the scope of the assessment Appendix E is intended to provide a baseline evaluation of current economic activity dependent on a healthy ecosystem.